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31 July 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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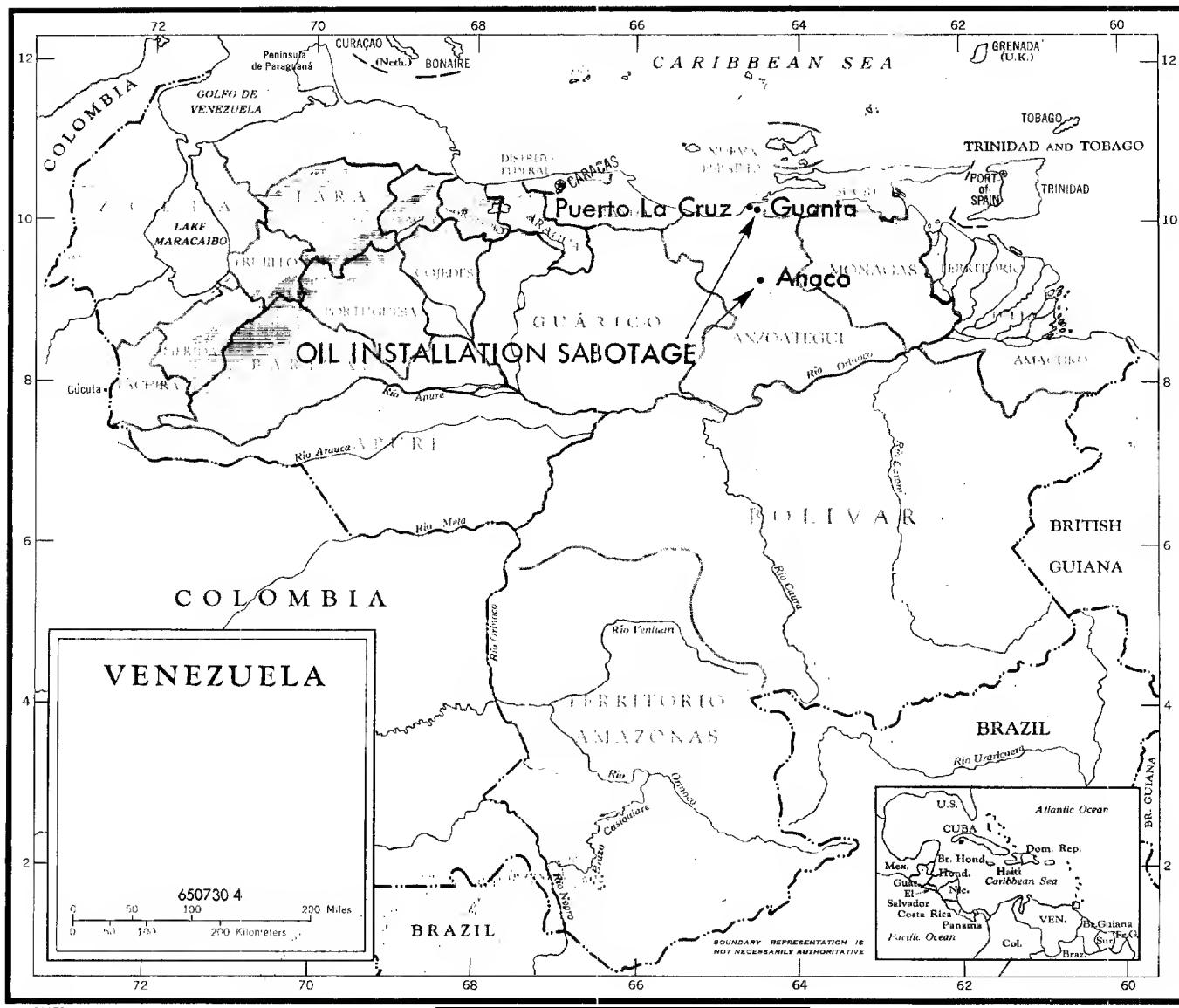
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Venezuela: [A new wave of political violence appears to have begun in the capital and in the oil fields of Venezuela.]

[President Leoni ordered a roundup of "all Communists" on 29 July ostensibly to control the violence in the east. His real purpose probably was to forestall threatened terrorist action by the Caracas brigade of the Communists' Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN).]

[On 27 July, Caracas police raided the funeral home where a prominent Communist who had died in prison was being eulogized.]

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[The terrorists engaged the police in several gunfights on 29 July, killing at least two policemen.]

[Anzoategui state, where Texaco and other US-owned petroleum installations were recently sabotaged, was placed under a state of emergency on 29 July. The attacks in the past four days on the oil installations reveal a more impressive pattern of organization and more effective explosives than previous incidents in this area. Military patrols have been sent to guard the oil fields, refineries, and storage facilities.]

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Honduras: The Honduran Government may face serious public disorders over the week end.

The killing of a student by government guards, along with wounding of two others at a rally held in Tegucigalpa on 29 July, has provided opposition political groups and Communist elements with a martyr. The rally was sponsored by students protesting government agents who entered two schools on 27 July and attacked students indiscriminately.

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[redacted] the rally was led by students sympathetic with the abortive Communist-supported general strike on 27 July.

The government declared a state of siege yesterday and ordered the arrest of Communist leaders and student agitators.

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*Greece: The political crisis has worsened during the past 24 hours and no compromise seems to be in sight.

In a brief but noisy session of Parliament yesterday, the acting speaker ruled that the Athanasiadis-Novas government had been unable to get a quorum to discuss its statement of policy and therefore "is considered as fallen." He indicated that the Parliament was suspended indefinitely pending further developments toward resolution of the dispute. Athanasiadis-Novas, however, has refused to accept the ruling of the acting speaker and is maintaining his position as the legal government.

The Center Union (CU) supporters of former prime minister Papandreu and the major opposition National Radical Union (ERE) deputies boycotted the session, but for different reasons. The CU refused to acknowledge that the Athanasiadis-Novas government was legally constituted; the ERE claimed it would boycott the sessions because the party primarily responsible for the crisis, the CU, was not present.

While a solution may yet be worked out between the Papandreu faction and the palace, neither side appears to be in a compromising mood. Papandreu may now feel he has demonstrated enough popular backing to force the King to recall him.

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South Korea: [The government's decision to have the National Assembly vote on sending combat troops to South Vietnam before tackling the more controversial Korean-Japanese treaty may ease legislative tension. Most opposition members favor this voting order, and government-party opponents of the troop dispatch will be mollified by recent assurances of increased US financial support for the Korean military. Nevertheless, opposition forces both in the assembly and on the street can be expected to intensify their efforts to block treaty ratification when debate takes place.]

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